

## **Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA**

## **§ 979.42**

and its subcommittee as is given to its members;

(i) To prepare a marketing policy;

(j) To recommend marketing regulations to the Secretary;

(k) To recommend rules and procedures for, and to make determination in connection with appropriate safeguards;

(l) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative. Minutes of each committee meeting shall be reported promptly to the Secretary;

(m) Prior to or at the beginning of each fiscal period, to prepare a budget of anticipated expenses for such fiscal period, together with a report thereon;

(n) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to producers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;

(o) To prepare and forward to the Secretary, prior to the last day of each fiscal period, an annual report, and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests it. This annual report shall contain at least:

(1) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period;

(2) An appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the melon industry; and

(3) Any recommendations for changes in the program.

(p) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period and at such other times as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part. Two copies of such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by growers and handlers; and

(q) To consult, cooperate, and exchange information with other marketing order committees and other in-

dividuals or agencies in connection with all proper activities and objectives under this part.

### **EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS**

#### **§ 979.40 Expenses.**

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred during each fiscal period by the committee for its maintenance and functioning, and for such purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. Each first handler's pro rata share of such expenses shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of melons handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the total quantity of melons so handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during such fiscal period.

#### **§ 979.41 Budget.**

Prior to or at the beginning of each fiscal period and as may be necessary thereafter, the committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income and expenditures necessary for the administration of this part. The committee may recommend a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. The committee shall present such budget to the Secretary with an accompanying report showing the basis for its calculations.

#### **§ 979.42 Assessments.**

(a) The funds to cover the committee's expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided for in this subpart. Each handler who first handles melons shall pay assessments to the committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler's pro rata share of the committee's expenses;

(b) Assessments shall be levied during each fiscal period upon handlers at a rate per unit established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of the committee's recommendations and other available information;

(c) At any time during or after a given fiscal period the committee may